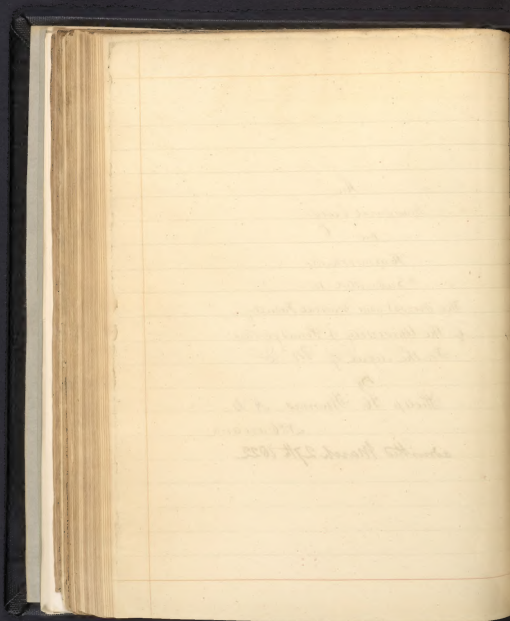


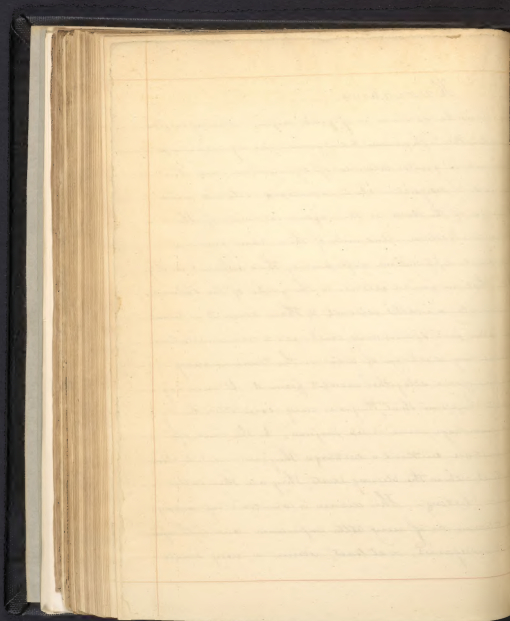
An  
Inaugural Essay  
on  
Haemorrhoids  
Submitted to  
The Provost and Medical Faculty  
of the University of Pennsylvania  
For the degree of M. D.

By  
Philip H. Thomas A. B.  
of Carolina  
admitted March 27th 1822.



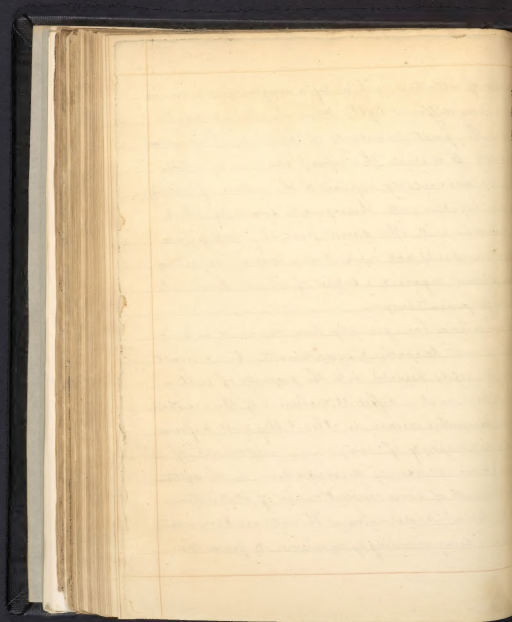
## Hæmorrhoids

The term hæmorrhoids is of greek origin meaning a flow of blood. But Physicians & Surgeons have by long usage sanctioned a greater latitude of signification; and it is now used to designate certain excruciating situated near the verge of the anus or the inferior extremity of the Intestinum Rectum. And each of these have certain appropriate appellations expressive of their nature & locality. Those that are found exterior to the gripe of the sphincter ani muscle are called external & those above it internal piles. And each species may exist for a considerable time without any discharge of blood or the tumours may exist for years altogether exempt from it. It more frequently happens, that they are very soon attended by an hæmorrhage, more or less profuse; in the case of their existence, without a discharge they are called blind piles, but when the bleeding exists, they are then called open or bleeding. This disease is considered by many practitioners, as of very little importance, and is therefore almost disregarded, or at least, receives a very small



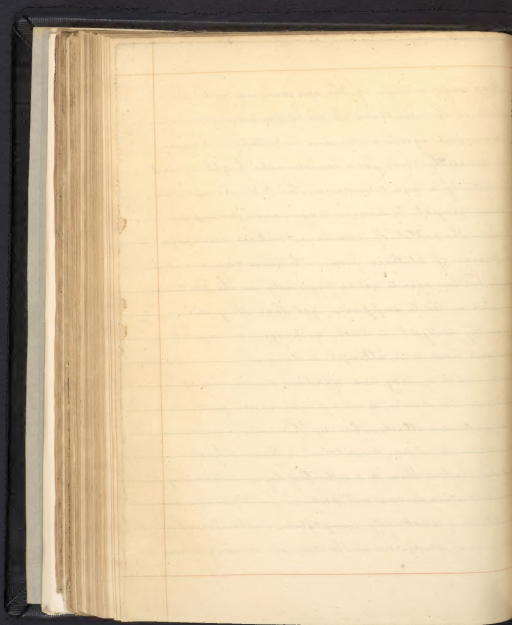
degree of attention, while by a majority it is viewed  
in a very different light. When we take into consid-  
eration the great vascularity of the parts; their extreme  
liability to disease, their exposed situation, by which  
they are unavoidably exposed to the action of irritating  
causes together with their exquisite sensibility which  
is common with other diseased parts they propose, we  
must necessarily look upon it as a disease meriting  
our utmost regard, & a subject of much interest both  
to the Physician & Surgeon.

Hæmorrhoids have generally been considered as being  
divided into Idiopathic & Symptomatic, but a doubt  
may be safely hazarded as to the propriety of such a  
distinction, as it is difficult to conceive of their existence  
as an idiopathic disease; or at least they will be found  
in a great majority of cases, purely symptomatic of  
some more extensively diseased action in the system  
or the result of some incident cause of obstructions  
of the Hæmorrhoidal veins - The internal Hæmorrhoids  
at times being exceedingly numerous, & from the



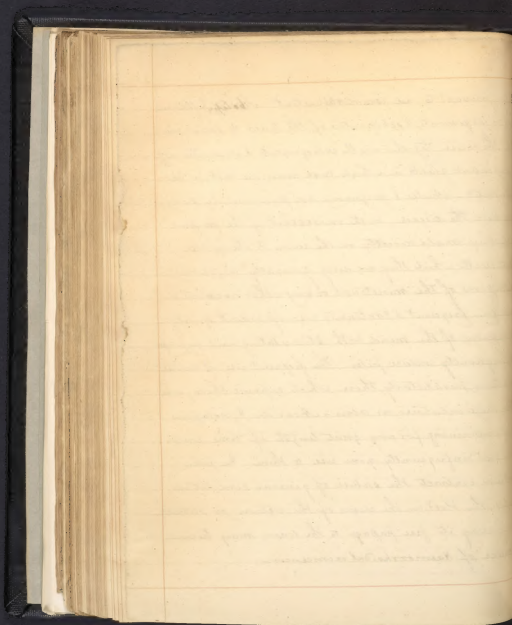
peculiar conformation of the surrounding parts, are deprived of the assistance of muscular action, one of the principal agents in venous circulation, having also to raise the blood for a considerable height against the gravity of a high column without the aid of valves, are very subject to venous congestions; predisposed to become the outlet of vicarious, & critical discharges, & the drains of plethora from whatever cause arising. Though Cullen asserts not so frequently as the Statisticians have been led to suppose; yet that they are frequently subject to such discharges, no one at the present time will attempt to deny -

Certain habits of body and affections of the mind predispose to this disease & many diseases are particularly apt to excite an attack. Among those who are particularly liable to it are the indolent & those whose avocations confine them to a sedentary life, or take long continuous exercise in an erect posture, particularly our horse backs as is strikingly exemplified in the case of practitioners of medicine in the country among whom





piles prevail to an considerable extent. Abstop Inflammations, enlargements, & schirrhosis of the liver & spleen are often the cause together with enlargements & obstructions of the mesenteric glands in which case cancer are not to be anticipated - child & pregnancy are prominently leads to produce the disease, both on account of the pressure which they make directly on the veins & the costume habits with which they are very generally associated. Suppression of the menstrual or any other accustomed discharge - frequent & continued use of ardent spirits, the passions of the mind, both stimulating and depressing, frequently induce piles. The frequent use of drastic purgatives, particularly those which expend their force on the large intestines, as calomel - Scarcides, & molasses are if remaining for any great length of time unabsorbed, not unfrequently give rise to them. In fine, "whatever contracts the sphere of general circulation or repels the blood in the region of the rectum, or obstructs in any way its free passage to the liver, may become the cause of haemorrhoidal excrescences -



But for some it will manifest one time or another. The disease is generally brought on by a disease of the stomach & intestines. But even Dr Caldwell in his very excellent notes on Gallien's practice is of opinion that this is invariably the case when they exist in patients of a good constitution. He also says he has seen a case which was violent & very troublesome in which the stomach was not much implicated, from which we may deduce a strong evidence of the powerful sympathy & extensive agency of this important vessel & learn the necessity of expressing, particularly what may be its connections with any disease which we may be called to treat.

The symptoms are usually rather constant & not easily cured. They often exist before the appearance of the tumour, or some direct indication of their existence. The patient is usually of a plethoric habit. The pulse is frequently of a soft, full, & bounding nature, with a fullness in the neck & a small quick pulse with pyrexia frequently precedes an attack. Though it may be easily



[illegible]



a hemorrhage sometimes attacking one vein only, at other involving the whole mass & not infrequently extending completely around the pelvis resembling the constriction of a broad ligature on the vein. always diminishing in a quiet disease its caliber & in some cases completely obliterating it. There is a short time become excited & very frequently, as in the patient I after a few days either from cacasia. To & from the violent straining & violent evacuation of the bowels the patient is in a violent agony over of blood motion & pain is sometimes dangerous & almost a source of much trouble and solicitude to the patient. At this point in the disease for many & sometimes we resort to cupping. I do along with the pain at each evacuation & what is more alarming the increase of the action & prostration either is an interruption of that action from straining, fainting, frequent, & long continued — Sometimes the action of mind is not confined to the time of a visit to the temple of Cloacina, but



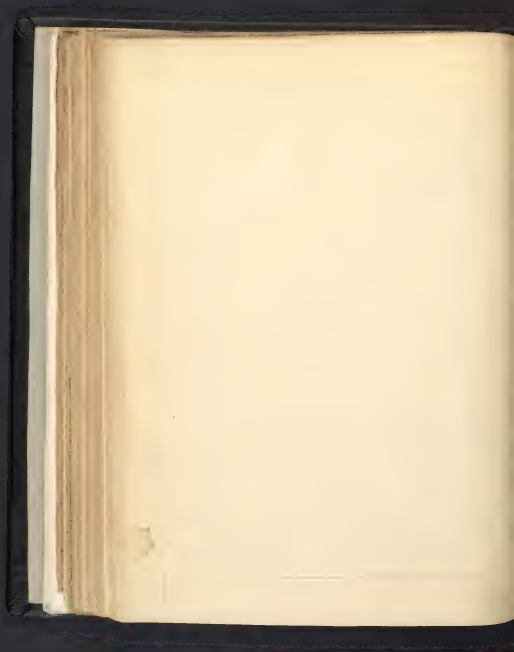


Continued with intermission. & sometimes during the attack, in more severe cases, where more or less suppression, let it not, produce a state of alarming dangerous or fatal. In this case the patient being least & discharge. Their contents, with the force, are entirely easy until another call; from which the patient experiences the same relief & after a time has rested for a time they cannot & become flaccid & are no longer a source of inconvenience & in this the patient may be considered spontaneously cured at least for a time. But the Diarrhea is very violent & liable to reproduce the disease from the most exciting cause & its suppression is always accompanied with an increase of the previous aggravation of the symptoms.

[illegible]



of their capillaries becoming an extravasation of blood  
between the coats of the intestine. The inner one, but  
becoming involved in the growing mass, is in the end  
effused. I have seen a portion with some mass of coagulum  
on either. The arteries are vessels concerned in a great  
measure in these productions in this manner, however, in lay-  
ing the most appearance of the blood thick at first  
from the rupture of the tumours. But from  
the most accurate anatomical investigations of the  
subject, & from the uniform absence of putrefaction in  
the tumours it is now generally conceded that the  
arteries are not at all concerned in the production  
of the cancer, but that the cancer is a disease of the  
venous system, depending the supply of blood.  
The pathology of the cancer of the breast is determined  
by the nature of the vessel in which it originates, & from the fact  
that it is a venous disease, & exhibits a component of suppuration  
in its progress, & is not a disease of the arteries.  
The origin of the cancer of the breast is in the  
of uniting & discharging their blood in the same manner.



they become inured & stop the progress in structure  
becoming hard & carnosities. In 1<sup>st</sup> place the symptoms  
with much placidity they generally arise from the  
rupture of small veins the rupture is a cessation of  
blood between the coats of the intestine & the external  
organization of the fibres. These coats are pressing  
up the rectum in a great degree & never allowing  
itself from the discharge of their contents under all  
attempts at stool very straining & painful & the  
latter come away in small clumps & very frequent  
they happen the tumours are forced forward  
without the anus which if not soon returned  
either voluntarily or by assistance are diminished  
by the sphincter and muscle giving rise to most  
of all the symptoms of strangulation. The  
intestine sometimes m. dies & becomes stiff  
In this way 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> being done he is in a  
critical crisis effects though he is in no means danger  
so fast a move or getting rid of him as in a great  
majority of cases the symptoms would probably



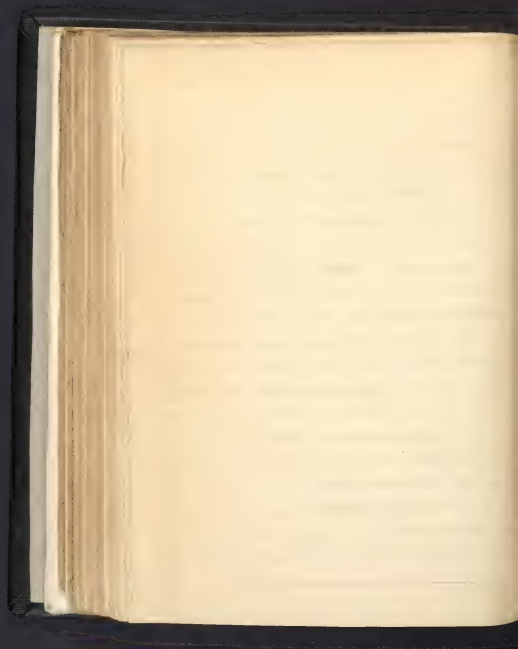
from so as to keep a ~~to~~ hazard live or kill, & then  
 should therefore, in all cases, & under all circumstances,  
 be returned if possible, immediately, & returned in their  
 portions the latter of which the nurse will more  
 commonly exert. These parts are never liable to affe-  
 ctions from other causes which often wear a great resem-  
 blance to piles; but they are generally specific diseases  
 & well in a majority of cases, prove to be syphilitic, or  
 cancerous, & their nature sufficiently warns the necessity  
 of ascertaining more particular that we do not  
 mistake them, a blunder in practice which might be  
 productive of much evil as the treatment in these  
 cases must necessarily be very dissimilar.

Treatment is question long agitated here, presents itself  
 on which the opinions of the medical world have been  
 much divided. Whether an attempt should be made at  
 a cure? One party concerned in the dispute as stated by  
 his followers considering haemorrhoids as well as other  
 hemorrhages as an effort of nature to eliminate  
 portions of vitiated or superfluous, and fluids of the body





for since Galienus, surgeons have loudly declaimed against  
 all attempts at sinu allying that it was counteracting  
 opposing the creative intentions of nature & opposing  
 the patient is a long train of direful consequences, which  
 as a popular opinion such is a considerable extent  
 even at the present time. While there is no mania  
 the opposite position consider with much more  
 reason that in common with most other diseases  
 they demand our utmost industry for their cure  
 & cure they are at the same time aware that it  
 would be very unsafe to heat up immutably  
 drains which have been long established. Particularly  
 in patients predisposed to pulmonary disease; but  
 as a general rule we are warranted in effecting as  
 speedily a cure as possible. I should never neglect  
 the opportunity in the early stages of the complaint  
 of a sinu allying in the treatment we are to pursue  
 the patient scrupulously to a horizontal position &  
 draw blood generally to a considerable extent, which  
 will in many cases require repetition.



more than once of the symptoms, and in the  
 case of the following measures may be taken  
 substance. After having administered the  
 action, we must resort to local depletion by scarification  
 or punctures with the lancet the inflammation  
 more or less, always a profuse when attended  
 by a severely inflamed state of the part, the  
 daily use of blisters. inflammation is subdued.  
 We must during the course of cure pay partic-  
 ular attention to the condition of the bowels,  
 opening them first with some gentle cathartics,  
 as sulphur, magnesia cream tartar & molasses  
 or what has been highly recommended is balsam  
 Copiba in the dose of 60 or 70 drops twice a day  
 as long as it may be useful. But it generally  
 matters. After wet opening the bowels with  
 some one of the above mentioned medicines we  
 may keep them in a sufficiently soluble condition  
 by due attention to diet & regimen -  
 the patient should be induced to make use of



select systems will, such as when a cold & feverish  
fruits & colds & colds are not in most  
cases, when the system is, age must & metaphors  
as a rule, & more of my 2<sup>nd</sup> hypothesis in case of inflammation  
of the system of diet properly used, and management  
of their nature about as such as the patient  
alone use; as affording but a small quantity  
of excrementitious matter. The diet should be  
cooling & sub-acid & nothing of a heating, or stimu-  
lating nature should on any account be permitted  
either as food or drink - All applications in  
this stage should be bland - cooling - At this period  
while inflammation & irritation remain not yet  
gone, however we may use a small amount of formula-  
tion, the system with a quantity of milk  
or grated carrots or what in most cases answers  
better & is much more convenient is an exciting  
the parts with fresh air, which is exceedingly  
cooling, & pleasant. After the entire reduction  
of inflammation we then resort to a very



different class of remedies, The astringent lotions  
& conguents here become useful & almost indispen-  
-sable & of these there is an infinite variety of  
washes the solutions of .acharum salicis of  
Which rectified of hems are among the most popular  
for the same indication the decoction of galls  
& of oak bark & viscum are much used. Dr. Wilson  
mentions in his surgical lectures that he has suc-  
ceeded the greatest benefit from a decoction of  
the peruvian bark over the other kinds of  
ointments than washes but the whole content  
decoction has mentioned in the most  
popular application. The Gall ointment &  
the other ointment mixed with Laudanum  
have acquired great celebrity. Dr. Wilson in his  
lectures on midwifery mentions a combination  
which from long & extensive experience he has  
found more efficacious than any single astringent  
or combination he has ever tried. The following  
is his recipe





To the Honorable Senate

January 31

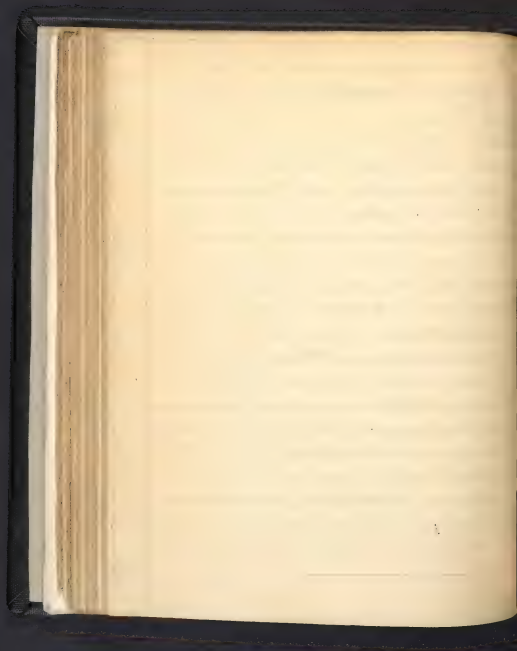
Laurens 1851

Dear Sirs

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the State. The same has been referred to the committee on the subject, and they have the honor to report that the proposed amendment is not necessary, and that the same is not in accordance with the wishes of the people. The committee also recommends that the same be rejected. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the State. The same has been referred to the committee on the subject, and they have the honor to report that the proposed amendment is not necessary, and that the same is not in accordance with the wishes of the people. The committee also recommends that the same be rejected. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst. in relation to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the State. The same has been referred to the committee on the subject, and they have the honor to report that the proposed amendment is not necessary, and that the same is not in accordance with the wishes of the people. The committee also recommends that the same be rejected.

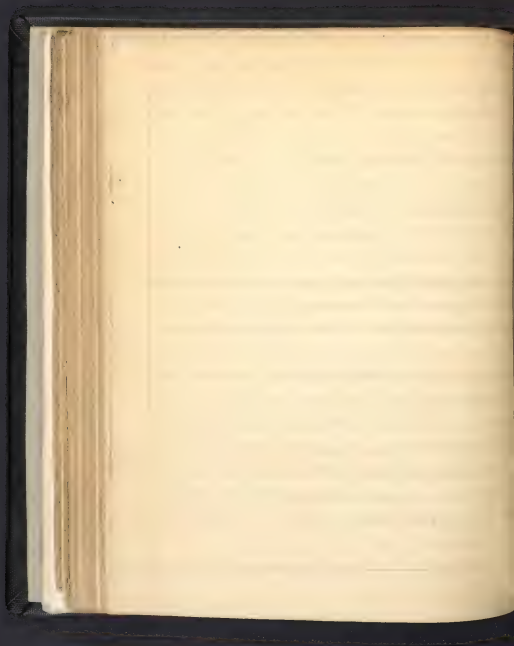


When from the series already mentioned there can  
become necessary, some means are available  
to effect a cure by the means detailed generally, &  
we must now resort to a very different mode of  
treatment - strictly surgical - In this case they are  
either to be removed by the actual cautery or more  
often by the oblique incision - but which has descended  
- by falling almost into disrepute, or removed by  
means of the ligature or cutting instruments  
The two last of which modes have their advocates  
among the celebrated surgeons of the present day.  
I have & I feel more in the habit of removing  
them with the knife or scissors the former  
supposing that one small tumour which is fre-  
quently found near the orifice of the rectum must  
more tender than the rest - the cause of  
all the mischief, & which being removed would  
cure the remainder & this view to a certain extent  
has been realized though in a great number of  
cases it has totally failed & fatal hemorrhages



has followed the operation. The latter is more  
to use the knife from having seen the lecture given  
fatal from the incision produced & this may be  
evidence on the summary mode of applying the  
ligature in his day but which the improvements  
of the present has almost entirely removed. It  
is however has from some more advanced the  
practice of cauterizing process from the effects  
which has attended the operations & the  
union which exists almost to practice improvements  
only of American origin. But the same  
as advised & practices by Dr. Sympson is certainly  
much improved in most cases in the nation.  
It removes the tedious method of application  
from haemorrhage & with very little irritation  
the only consequence is the same.

This practice is to use a small amount of cauterization, not  
near those in which formerly long cauterization is  
form from cauterization in the case of which he cauterizes  
The tumour & makes as firm a compression as he can



as well completely strangulate them. They soon turn  
of a dark livid colour. The canula may be removed  
after having remained a few hours & in the course  
of two or three days the tumour will slough off  
& the cure be completed. It should be remembered  
that we are never to apply the ligature to a  
cluster of piles but always to a single tumour.  
This mode of operating is followed by a very  
different from those which succeed the application  
of the long awkward canula formerly used &  
which was permitted to remain until the slough-  
ing & as might be supposed causes very great  
irritation. Sometimes the large size precludes the  
necessity of applying the instrument. In which  
case we are to use a needle armed with a double  
ligature. After having thrust the needle through  
the middle of the base of the tumour we are to  
tie the ligatures on each side so tight as to strangu-  
late each side of the tumour will thus be brought away  
in a few days.





If the bleeding from within the rectum prove very profuse, we may introduce a large bougie so as to make compression alone or we may smear it with some astringent, or what in most cases answers better either is a sheep's gut introduced into the rectum & distended with cold vinegar & water, or lead water. In numerous cases all our endeavours will prove ineffectual to cure Haemorrhoids untill we remove the cause of this production, this is particularly the case in pregnant women & persons labouring under ascites & here all our applications will only prove palliative.

When the patient becomes convalescent he should be allowed a light but generous diet & compelled to use moderate exercise, in the open air. His bowels should be kept loose, & he should carefully avoid all the exciting causes -

